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Bremer Identified As Gunman

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP) – Two witnesses to the attempted assassination of George C. Wallace identified Arthur Herman Bremer on Monday as the man who fired the shots that partially paralyzed the Alabama governor and wounded three other persons. Three other witnesses to the shooting failed to identify Bremer.

The identifications came in the opening day of Bremer's trial on state charges. He has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity.

Defense attorney Benjamin Lipsitz said he would present expert testimony to paint "a picture of a boy who was weird from the day he came on this earth."

After three of the first prosecution witnesses could not identify Bremer, Mabel K. Speigle walked among the trial spectators where the defendant had been placed for the identification process, reached out and touched him.

Bremer, who faces 17 state charges in connection with the May 15 shooting at a campaign rally in Laurel, Md., was flanked by two plainclothes sheriff's deputies. He looked only at Mrs. Speigle's hand.

After she returned to the stand, Mrs. Speigle said Bremer looked different from the way he appeared the day of the attempted assassination because he had longer hair now and had grown a beard.

The three earlier witnesses included Mrs. Speigle's husband.

Mrs. Speigle and four other witnesses told of shots being fired as Wallace moved among the crowd at a shopping center after a speech on the eve of Maryland's presidential primary, which Wallace won.

After Mrs. Speigle, Cpl. Michael Landrum of the Prince Georges County police force also identified Bremer as the gunman.

The next to last of 13 prosecution witnesses Monday was Richard E. Duby, a salesman at the Casanova gun shop in Milwaukee, who identified Bremer's signature on a gun sales receipt dated Jan. 15.

Duby also identified a federal firearms purchase form containing Bremer's driver's license number.

The prosecution did not tie the .38-caliber revolver retrieved at the shooting scene by a secret service agent to the gun sold in Milwaukee.

The trial was adjourned at about 5 p.m. until Tuesday.

In his opening statement, Lipsitz said he didn't know whether Bremer shot Wallace and added: "I'm not sure even Arthur Herman Bremer knows."

He told the six men and women empaneled earlier in the day in Prince Georges County Circuit Court: 'We're going to present evidence about the short, unhappy life of this young man."

Lipsitz also said the FBI laboratory was unable to find any traces of gunpowder on paraffin "lifts" taken from Bremer's hands by county police shortly after his arrest at the shopping center.